

## REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that indicating that claims 5-7 contain allowable subject matter, and that these claims would be allowable if they are amended to be placed into independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the current amendment, Applicant revises claim 1 to include substantially all the subject matter of objected claim 5, there being no intervening claim. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such an indication from the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicants amend claims 6 and 7 to change their dependency from claim 5 (which is canceled by the present response) to claim 1 (which, noted above, has been revised to include the subject matter of objected claim 5). Accordingly, Applicants submit that dependent claims 6 and 7 are also in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such an indication from the Examiner.

In view of the current response, Applicants cancel, without prejudice, claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 (claims 2 and 10-12 being previously canceled). Such cancellation is not to be taken as acquiescing to the appropriateness of the rejections against the claims, but as a desire to advance the present application to issue. As a result, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit similar type claims in another application.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that it is no longer necessary to discuss the appropriateness of the rejection set forth by the Examiner, as said claims have been canceled.

Lastly, Applicants amend independent method claim 13 to correspond to revised apparatus claim 1. That is, claim 13 is amended to include the features of claim 5 that the Examiner indicated to be allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 13 is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests such an indication from the Examiner.

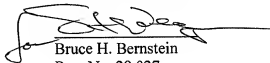
#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katsuaki ABE et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

December 19, 2008  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

**Steven Wegman**  
**Reg. No. 31,438**